

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3329

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 1421

FOR ARA/PAF INFO S/PRS

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TAGS: VE PE BR CO CS OVIP

SUBJ: PRESS QUESTIONS RE SECRETARY'S TRIP

REF: STATE 028639

1. Q WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT TO COLOMBIA?

A: I AM HERE TO CONSULT ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ, FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT. AMONG THE TOPICS WE WILL BE DISCUSSING ARE THE FUTURE OF THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS, THE ANGOLAN SITUATION AND THE CONTINUING PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING.

2. Q: IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES IGNORES LATIN AMERICA AND HAS NO POLICY TOWARD THIS PART OF THE WORLD? WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THAT CHARGE?

A: THAT CHARGE IS FALSE. I STATED OUR POLICY TOWARD OUR NEIGHBORS IN THIS HEMISPHERE VERY CLEARLY IN A SPEECH AT HOUSTON, TEXAS, ON MARCH 3, 1975. I SAID THAT IT IS TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA TO LEARN TO WORK TOGETHER, CALMLY AND WITHOUT CONFRONTATION, ON THE CHALLENGES TO OUR COMMON CIVILIZATION. THAT IS WHAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO IN THIS HEMISPHERE. I BELIEVE WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS TOWARD

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THIS GOAL. OUR POLICY IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTER-

VENTION AND MUTUAL RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S SOVEREIGNTY. I MIGHT ADD THAT THE ABSENCE OF A CATCHY SLOGAN DOES NOT INDICATE THE ABSENCE OF A CAREFULLY THOUGHT-OUT POLICY, SUCH AS I HAVE DESCRIBED.

3. Q: MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS ARE OFTEN ACCUSED OF INTERVENING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS. THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE IS LOCKHEED WHICH IS ALLEDGED TO HAVE BRIBED COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS. WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE US GOVERNMENT REGARDING THESE ABUSES?

A: THE TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION HAS A DEMONSTRATED RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT AS AN EFFICIENT--AND INDEED INDISPENSABLE--SOURCE OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT SKILL AND DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL FOR LDCS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE TRANSNATIONATIONAL CHARACTER OF THESE CORPORATIONS RAISES COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF GOVERNMENTAL REGULATION; WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE GROUND RULES FOR MULTINATIONALS THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS, THE OAS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. ON THE ISSUES OF CORPORATE BRIBERY, WE HAVE CONDEMNED SUCH PRACTICES IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS AND URGED CORPORATIONS TO OBEY THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH THEY DO BUSINESS. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE CASE OF LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT, AS REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT IS INVESTIGATING THE ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBERY. IF THOSE INVESTIGATIONS INDICATE THAT THERE WERE INSTANCES OF BRIBERY, I WOULD ASSUME THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE PLACED BEFORE THE COURTS.

4. Q: THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT RECENTLY PASSED LEGISLATION REQUIRING ALL FOREIGN OWNED BANKS TO BECOME MAJORITY COLOMBIAN-OWNED WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS. TWO US BANKS- BANK OF AMERICA AND FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK- ARE AFFECTED BY THIS LEGISLATION. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS?

A: I UNDERSTAND THAT THE QUESTION OF THE COLOMBIANIZATION OF THE FOREIGN-OWNED BANKS IS CURRENTLY BEFORE THE COLOMBIAN SUPREME COURT. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD PREFER NOT TO MAKE ANY COMMENT. THE BANK MATTER DID NOT COME UP IN MY MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ OR FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO.

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5. Q: IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE OAS? THE US GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY OPPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS FOR RESTRUCTURING OF THAT ORGANIZATION.

A: THE UNITED STATES IS ONE OF 23 MEMBER NATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PURPOSES OF THE OAS AND WISH TO BE A USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE MEMBER OF THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE

EFFORTS TO RESTRUCTURE THE OAS MUST BE PRACTICAL AND MUST BE
ACCEPTABLE TO ALL MEMBER NATIONS. OUR DELEGATION TO THE OAS IS
COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF CHARTER REFORM AND WILL CONTINUE
ITS EFFORTS TO FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS.

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P 092324Z FEB 76

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3330

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6. Q: WHAT ARE THE CHANCES THAT THE US TRADE ACT
OF 1974 WILL BE AMENDED SO THAT VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR MAY
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TRADE PREFERENCES?

A: PRESIDENT FORD AND I HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY THAT THE
ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS THE PURPOSE OF THE VARIOUS BILLS WHICH
HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THE CONGRESS TO MODIFY THE PROVISIONS
OF THE TRADE ACT THAT AFFECT VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR. WE ALSO
BELIEVE THAT THE TRADE ACT, TAKEN AS A WHOLE, IS HIGHLY FAVOR-
ABLE FOR LATIN AMERICA. FOR EXAMPLE, THE TRADE PREFERENCES THAT
WENT INTO EFFECT ON JAN 1, 1976, GRANT FAVORED TREATMENT TO
261 PRODUCTS EXPORTED BY COLOMBIA TO THE US WITH A TOTAL
VALUE OF SOME 20 MILLION DOLLARS. WE FEEL THAT BENEFICIARY
NATIONS SHOULD ANALYZING THIS LEGISLATION CAREFULLY TO
MAXIMIZE ITS ECONOMIC BENEFITS RATHER THAN MAKING POLITICAL
OBJECTIONS TO CERTAIN CLAUSES THAT WE ARE MAKING A BONAFIDE
EFFORT TO CHANGE. I WISH TO ADD ALSO THAT WE ARE WORKING WITH
COLOMBIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, IN AN EFFORT TO SEEK SOLUTIONS
TO A WIDE RANGE OF TRADE MATTERS.

7. 1: PRESIDENT LOPEZ HAS SAID THAT NARCOTICS TRAFFICING IN
THE HEMISPHERE IS A US PROBLEM. DO YOU AGREE?

A: YES, IT'S A US PROBLEM. THE US IS THE PRINCIPAL MARKET AND THERE ARE A HALF-MILLION NARCOTICS ADDICTS WALKING THE STREETS OF OUR COUNTRY. HOWEVER, AS PRESIDENTS LOPEZ AND FORD SAID IN THEIR JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING PRESIDENT LOPEZ'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATE VISIT TO THE US LAST SEPTEMBER, NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IS A INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM REQUIRING INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS. TO THAT END, THE UNITED STATES IS IN DISCUSSION WITH THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING AN INCREASED MUTUAL EFFORT TO COMBAT THE DRUG PROBLEM. COLOMBIA HAS MADE REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN THIS AREA OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

8. Q: WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF THE QUITA SUENO TREATY?

A: THE ADMINISTRATION FAVORS SENATE RATIFICATION OF THE QUITA SUENO TREATY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY AND WE HAVE TESTIFIED TO THAT EFFECT AT HEARINGS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

9. Q: WHEN DOES THE US GOVERNMENT PLAN TO REOPEN ITS CONSULATE IN BARRANQUILLA?

A: NO DEFINITE DATE HAS BEEN SET. WE HOPE HOWEVER TO BE ABLE TO APPROACH THE GOC FORMALLY ON THIS SOON AND TO ARRANGE FOR AN OPENING AT AN EARLY DATE.

10. Q: WHAT COMMENTS DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE ON COLOMBIA'S DECISION TO RENOUNCE BILATERAL US AID THROUGH THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID)?

A: THIS WAS A MUTUAL DECISION OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS THAT SHOULD HAVE SURPRISED NO ONE. ALTHOUGH AID HAS PROVIDED DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO COLOMBIA TOTALING NEARLY 1.4 BILLION DOLLARS OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS, US DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUNDS ARE NOW BEING INCREASINGLY CHanneLED THROUGH MULTILATERAL AGENCIES, SUCH AS THE INTERAMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, THE WORLD BANK AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. US AID TO COLOMBIA THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN THREE BILLION DOLLARS OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS AND THE US WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE PRINCIPLE DONOR TO THE MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF THESE AGENCIES. FOR THOSE REASONS, THE US WILL STILL BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO COLOMBIA'S DEVELOPMENT.

11. Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES FAVORS MILITARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DICTATORSHIPS IN LATIN AMERICA?

A: NO, THAT STATEMENT IS TOTALLY FALSE. WHAT IS TRUE, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST BE PRAGMATIC ENOUGH TO CONDUCT RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF OTHER NATIONS AS THEY EXIST, NOT AS WE WOULD WISH THEM TO BE. OUR PREFERENCE FOR DEMOCRACY IS A MATTER OF RECORD AS IS OUR ADMIRATION FOR COLOMBIA AS ONE OF THE FEW DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS OF LATIN AMERICA. THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ WAS THE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENT INVITED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD AT THE WHITE HOUSE SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED. THE US HAS A LONG HISTORY OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THAT IS WHAT WE BELIEVE IN BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO IMPOSE OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT ON ANYONE ELSE.

12. Q: WHEN WILL THE US RE-ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA?

A: WE HAVE ALREADY GIVEN SEVERAL INDICATIONS OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO EASE TENSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA. BUT, AS I SAID IN HOUSTON LAST YEAR, OUR DECISIONS ON THIS ISSUE WILL BE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE EXTERNAL POLICIES OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.
VAKY

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